AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the heading at page 1, line 1 as follows:

TITLE ~~OF INVENTION~~

Please amend the heading and subheading beginning at page 1, line 5, as follows:

BACKGROUND ~~OF INVENTION~~

<u>Technical</u> Field ~~of Invention~~

Please amend the heading beginning at page 3, line 12, as follows:

SUMMARY ~~OF INVENTION~~

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007]   The <u>exemplary embodiments of the</u> present invention ~~was~~ <u>were</u> conceived in light of circumstances such as the foregoing, it being an object thereof to provide an electronic appliance function restriction release method permitting function restriction(s) to be easily released even at inexpensive electronic appliance(s) not equipped with operation panel(s) permitting entry of release key sequence(s) or other such complicated operation(s), and an electronic appliance permitting implementation of such function restriction release method.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018]   FIG. 1, being a drawing to assist in explaining a first <u>exemplary</u> embodiment of the present invention, is a drawing showing a block diagram showing the constitution of a host PC, together with a block diagram showing the constitution of an image processing apparatus.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019]   FIG. 2 is a flowchart showing an example of the sequence of processing during function restriction release in a first <u>exemplary</u> embodiment of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020]   FIG. 3 is a drawing to assist in explaining a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021]   FIG. 4 (a), being a flowchart showing content of processing in a third exemplary embodiment of the present invention, shows steps occurring up to host ID registration at a host PC.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022]   FIG. 4 (b), being a flowchart showing content of processing in a third exemplary embodiment of the present invention, shows steps occurring following a request to use scanner function at a host PC.

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024]   FIG. 6 is a flowchart showing content of processing in a fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

Please amend the heading at page 8, line 1 as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026]   Below, exemplary embodiments of the present invention are described with reference to the drawings.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027]   First Exemplary Embodiment

First, the first exemplary embodiment is an application of the present invention to an image processing apparatus serving as electronic appliance. More specifically, incorporated within an

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image processing apparatus (compound device) are copier function, printer function, and scanner function; and, of these three functions, use of the scanner function is restricted as of the time of shipment. Shown in block diagrammatic fashion at FIG. 1 are the respective constitutions of this image processing apparatus and a host PC serving as host apparatus.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032]   Function restriction management component 211 executes: processing for release of lock(s) on scanner control program 273 when release command(s) is or are sent from host PC 1; processing for storing, at function restriction information storage unit 281, the ID of host PC 1 and other such information related to function restriction(s); processing for sending function restriction information to host PC 1; and so forth.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037]   Second Exemplary Embodiment and Third Exemplary Embodiment

Next, in a second exemplary embodiment as shown in FIG. 3, where a single image processing apparatus 2 is connected by way of a network to a plurality of host PCs 1A through 1C, it is possible by executing function restriction release program 3 at any one host PC (e.g., host PC 1A) among plurality of host PCs 1A through 1C to cause the other host PCs 1B, 1C on the network to be able to use the scanner function of the image processing apparatus 2 at which function restriction release was carried out despite the fact that such scanner function restriction release was carried out only once.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

[0038]   Or, where a plurality of host PCs 1A through 1C are connected to a single image processing apparatus 2 by way of a network in the same fashion as is shown in FIG. 3, it is nonetheless possible to cause the scanner function to be made available for use only at host PC(s)

where function restriction release has been carried out if license management is to be implemented such that the number of users capable of using the scanner function (number of licenses) is to be restricted. A third exemplary embodiment representing a specific example of a preferred arrangement under such circumstances will be described while referring to FIG. 3 as well as FIG. 4 (a) and FIG. 4 (b).

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041]   Fourth Exemplary Embodiment

Next, in a fourth exemplary embodiment, an example of management of operation of scanner driver 133 (FIG. 1) installed at host PC 1 is described while referring to the flowchart of FIG. 6.

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following amended paragraph:

[0046]   Other Exemplary Embodiments

Moreover, whereas the first exemplary embodiment shown in FIG. 1 depicts an example wherein scanner driver 133 is installed in advance on host PC 1 at the time of shipment, the present invention is not limited thereto, it being possible, for example as shown in FIG. 7, to either record the scanner driver 4 on the same recording medium or media (CD-ROM or the like) as the function restriction release program 3 or to record same on different recording medium or media, with scanner driver 4 and function restriction release program 3 being installed on host PC 100 at the time that function restriction release is carried out.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following amended paragraph:

[0048]   Whereas, in the foregoing exemplary embodiments, copier function and printer function were standard functions provided at the time of shipment, with the scanner function being provided as a restricted function, the present invention is not limited thereto, it being possible to have only the copier function provided as standard function at the time of shipment,

with the printer function and scanner function being provided as restricted functions.

Alternatively, it is possible to have only the copier function provided as standard function at the

time of shipment, with either the printer function or the scanner function being provided as a

restricted function.

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

[0051]   Furthermore, in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, where system

architecture is such that host PC(s) is or are capable of connecting to communication network(s)

including the Internet, recording medium or media may carry programming in fluid form such

that the function restriction release program can be downloaded from communication network(s).

Moreover, where the function restriction release program is downloaded in such fashion from

communication network(s), programming for performing such downloading may be stored in

advance at the apparatus main body or may be installed from other recording medium or media.